

## **Orchestra Hall**

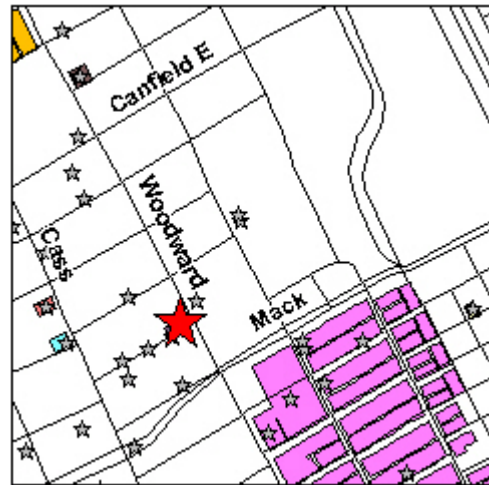
3711 Woodward

Local	✓	1/1/70
State	✓	12/11/70
State Marker	✓	10/31/79
National	✓	4/16/71



**Orchestra Hall**

Photo courtesy of Detroityes.com



### **Historic overview:**

In 1914 the world-renowned Detroit Symphony Orchestra was created. By 1919, distinguished director Ossip Gabrilowitsch spearheaded the initiative to build a professional hall. The near acoustically perfect Orchestra Hall was designed by C. Howard Crane, and was completed in just five months. In 1939 the Detroit Symphony Orchestra moved to a larger facility, and from 1941-1951 the hall featured jazz and vaudeville as the Paradise Theatre. The Paradise Theatre featured artists such as Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald.

After many years of vacancy, Gino's, Inc. purchased Orchestra Hall and it was scheduled for demolition in 1970. The seats had been removed since 1963, and a cafeteria was scheduled to be built upon the site. Musicians and other individuals took a renewed interest in the hall, and organized a campaign to stop the demolition. A group called Save Orchestra Hall was formed, and a swift effort was made to protect this historic structure. On demolition day, picketers even came with musical instruments. Their difficult task proved successful.

Save Orchestra Hall, Inc. became a non-profit and later the Orchestra Hall Foundation. Membership dollars were spent on the rehabilitation of the hall. In 1989 the Detroit Symphony Orchestra resumed concerts in their magnificently restored building. The Orchestra conducts a series of astounding performances ranging from classical, jazz, seasonal festivals and Young People's Concerts. It is the most listened to orchestra in the nation, in part due to its weekly radio segment on over 550 stations. Currently, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is expanding Orchestra Hall with the addition of the Max M. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. It is to be completed in 2003.

